[28th August 1961

Madras State Foodgrains Merchants' Association

* 270 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Madras State Foodgrains Merchants' Association with any request to recommend to the Railway Administration to give high priority for wagons to bring 600 tons of rice from Orissa, purchased by the Madras State merchants; and

(*b*) if so the action taken or propsed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Government of India in the Ministry of Railways and the Chief Operating Superintendent, South-Eastern Railways, were requested to give special priority for the movement of rice and paddy purchased by the merchants of this State from the levy stocks of the Government of Orissa. The Chief Operating Superintendent, South Eastern Railway, has informed this Government that arrangements have been made to allot 10 wagons per day Ex-Orissa Stations to South India subject to availability of suitable empties.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know, Sir, whether on account of this delay, there was any deterioration in the quality of rice purchased by our merchants in Orissa?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no such information.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know how long it will take for these 600 tons of rice to be imported into this State from Orissa?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That depends upon the availability of the wagons. There is shortage of wagons still. We are looking into the matter, and the railways do respond to our request and wagons are allotted.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know whether all the 600 tons of rice have been received?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am sorry I do not have the information with me. But arrangements have been made to allot ten wagons per day subject to availability of empties. Therefore, I do not think that there should be any further difficulty in transporting all that quantity of rice.

Boring sets

* 271 *Q.*—SRI A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of deposits paid by agriculturists in respect of hiring of boring sets in 1958–59 and 1959–60;